

MISSION 205

DSM TO LAUNCH PILOT MISSION PROGRAM

Exciting things are happening in Dawson's Student Ministry. Fresh off the heels of their annual DNOW weekend with more than 300 students and 100 volunteers participating, Dawson students are preparing for a mission project in the Dominican Republic during Spring Break later this year. This year, middle school students will also have a chance to take their own mission "trip" with a pilot program called Mission 205. During the day, our middle school students will partner with local organizations to share the Gospel and serve the city. At night, they will stay in dorms on a college campus, where they will have daily debrief groups and worship time.

Abbie Johnson, Dawson's Associate Minister to Students, Alison Matthews, Student Ministry Assistant, and Seth King, Middle School Coordinator, are leading the charge for Dawson's first Middle School only mission project. "One of the things that we really have

been thinking about as a team in the last year," Abbie said, "is how can our students learn to be more mission-focused?" When the opportunity became available to create a new mission project, the DSM team says they were challenged to think beyond the norm. A local mission project in Birmingham was a great idea, Abbie said, because "mission projects are not just international experiences but can also happen in your backyard."

Their hopes are that this project will allow our students to understand what it really means to love their city and also to step outside their comfort zone. "It's a great bubble that we live in", Abbie said, but "Jesus has called us to love everyone," noting the poverty that's as close as "a mile or two down the road from our church."

Dawson's Student Ministry believes

that Mission 205 will be a stepping stone for students to share the Gospel during more trips to the Dominican Republic or other DSM mission



Alison Matthews, Seth King, and Abbie Johnson

projects.

Students will employ 'The Story' as one method of sharing the Gospel during Mission 205. Johnson said, "We've already seen fruit from using 'The Story' in the Dominican Republic, and so we will continue to use that to share the Gospel in Birmingham."

Mission 205 will take place from May 29 to June 1 in downtown Birmingham.

